

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

March 23, 2004

In my October 8, 2003 motion, the Board instructed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to expand its working collaboration with independent law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County, similar to what is being established with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. In addition, DCFS was directed to seek the dedication of resources to establish a Multi-agency Response Team. The Multi-agency Response Team has now been created and the Department is awaiting final agreement to begin co-location. Initial information suggests that the Multi-agency Response Team has successfully rescued 207 children from dangerous situations since the time of its inception, January 5, 2004 to March 17, 2004.

As a result of this collaborative effort, the need has been demonstrated for further co-location of DCFS staff with law enforcement. Demographics suggest the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, Los Angeles Police Department, Long Beach Police Department, and various other local law enforcement agencies should be specifically considered for further co-location.

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

Co-location of staff will assist DCFS and law enforcement in the protection of abused and neglected children through a closer coordination of efforts and resources that will strengthen the community safety net for our families and children. Specifically, identified families will be able to be provided with immediate linkage to services; expedited responses will be provided on referrals, thereby reducing response time and trauma for children; and lastly, information will be shared, improving the quality of investigations.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT** the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Children and Family Services to explore the feasibility of co-location of staff with the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, Los Angeles Police Department, the Long Beach Police Department, and various law enforcement agencies, as has been developed with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. I further move that DCFS report back to the Board in 90 days as to progress made.

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